

K345 Railroad Avenue Group

c. 1900

Chestertown

private

In their original clapboard siding and in mint condition these five buildings represented a tasteful 19th century solution to the problem of low cost housing. Today they are in rapidly ~~declining~~ declining condition and slated for destruction.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-345

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Railroad Avenue Group

2. Location

street & number 105 - 111 Railroad Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town Chestertown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-345

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

These structures take the form of "workers housing," and appear to date from the second half of the 19th century. The structures are two stories in height and are capped by gable roofs. Although now covered with insul brick, the buildings were originally sheathed with weatherboards. Room configuration is the typical "shotgun," room-behind-room arrangement typical of this type of structure historically.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-345

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-345

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark R. Edwards/Deputy Director - Deputy SHPO

organization Maryland Historical Trust date December 10, 1986

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 757-9000

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Railroad Avenue Group

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101-103/105-107/109-111/113-115/117-119 Railroad Avenue

K-345

~~R-81~~ ~~K-85~~

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☐ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERICAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See attachment

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk of Kent County

Liber #:

Folio #: see attachment

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

2 DESCRIPTION

K-345

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a group of five double dwellings located on the northeast side of the railroad tracks on Railroad Avenue, a dirty roadway which used to run with the tracks through from S. Queen Street to Front Street. Presently it dead ends.

Each of the five identical houses is a frame, 2-story, 4-bay structure with an "A" roof. The buildings are as deep as they are wide ~~with~~ ^{virtually no} windows on the gable ends). They were originally sided with clapboard but now all are covered with various sorts of composition material. All have varieties of tin roofing and pairs of interior chimneys. The pairs of entrance doors are in the outside bays; most have hood roofs over them; each has a wooden stoop. All windows are 2/2 and none have shutters.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of these five buildings would be a good deal more obvious if their composition siding were removed and they were restored to their original condition. They are extremely plain square buildings which represent a simple but attractive approach to low cost multiple-family dwellings which has not been improved upon, at least aesthetically, since their time.

They may well be too run-down to restore, but it is a project that ought at least to be considered.

They were presumably built as an investment by Joel and Susan Clements around the turn of the century. They owned virtually all of the property--originally called the Wilkins-Burchinal Railroad Property--from around 1900 until Susan Clements' death in 1920. The property appears to have had no buildings on it when she bought it from the Burchinals and had all five double houses on it when she died, according to her will. (RRH 1 11a)

K-345

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Railroad Avenue group

K345

Ownership

101-103	Marguerite Jones, Moses J. Sisco, Harold Jones	EHP 28/65
105-107	Elmer E. Campher (105) Raymond Demby (107)	EHP 31/832 EHP 37/37
109-111	Elmer E. Campher	EHP 31/832
113-115	James H. Chambers	WHG 7/474
117-119	Wilbur R. Hubbard	WHG 73/66

K-345

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS
(NEW)
FARM

COUNTY

RAILROAD

PENNSYLVANIA

KENT

LYNCHBURG

POPLAR

STREET

STREET

STREET

KENT

STREET

MT. VERNON

COLLEGE

CAMPUS

COLLEGE

WASHINGTON

U.S. 213

TERRACE

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

SCHOOL AVENUE

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

MILL

CALVERT

STREET

SPRING

ST.

CROSS

ROW

STREET

PARK

COURT ST.

CHURCH

ST.

AVENUE

STREET

BYFORD

COURT

TWILLEY

LANE

QUEEN

WATER

CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE

TERRACE

U.S. 213

Chester

River

MORRIS

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD

VALLEY

CEDAR

STREET

BROWN VIEW

RIVER

SCHOOL

STREET

SCHOOL

AVENUE

STREET

STREET

STREET

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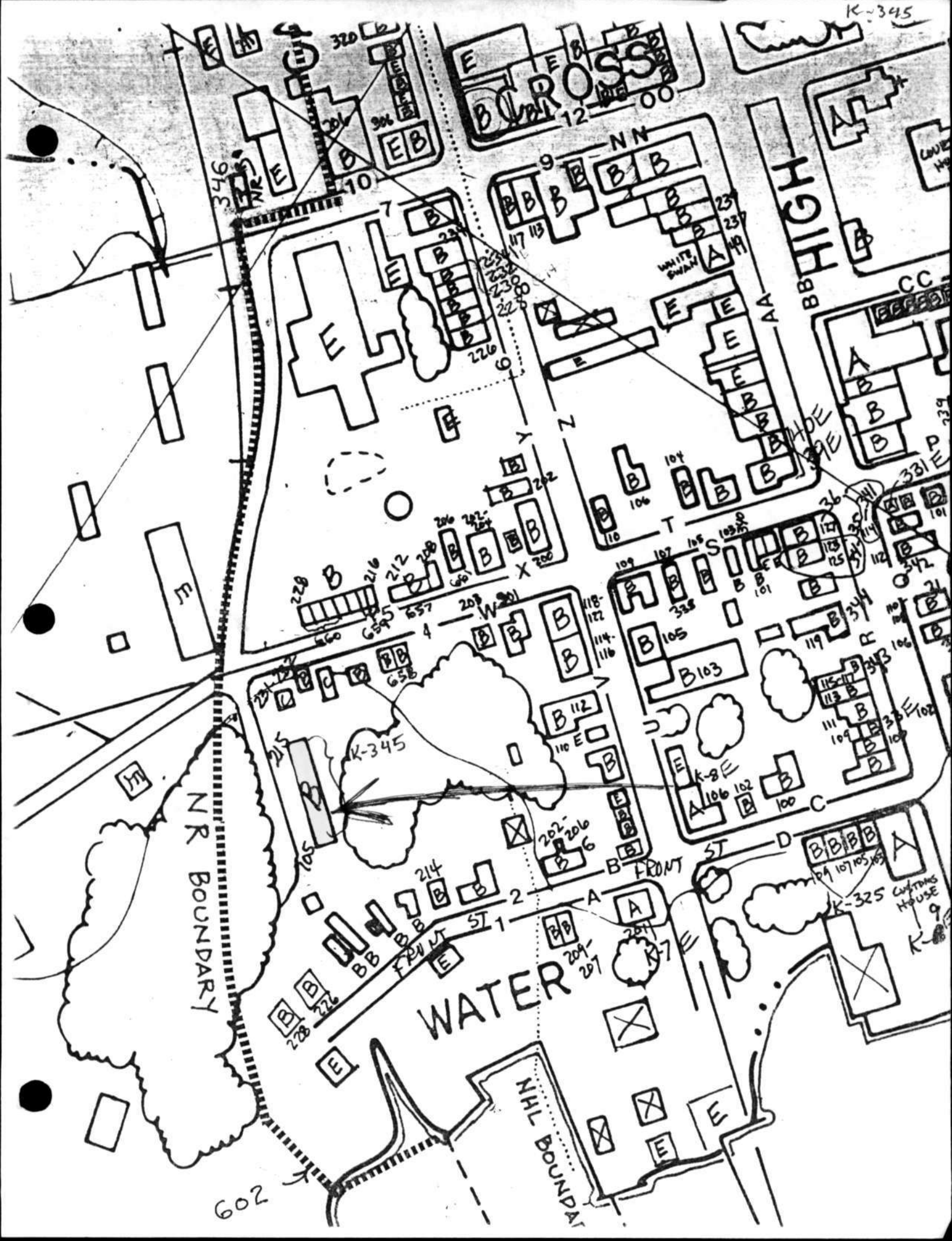
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STREET



K-345
Railroad Avenue Group
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





9
K-345

105-111 Railroad Avenue, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photopraper

December 10, 1986 - date photo taken

Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative



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105-111 Railroad Avenue, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photographer

December 10, 1986 - date photo taken

Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative



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105-111 Railroad Avenue, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photographer

December 10, 1986 - date photo taken

Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative

9



6

K-345

105-111 Railroad Avenue, Chestertown

Mark R. Edwards - photographer

December 10, 1986 - date photo taken

Maryland Historical Trust - location of negative



K345 Railroad Ave., Chester town
spring 1976 Robert Mills
SE

LESS



Photo: R. Neill

Processing: C. Engstrom